**RECOLLECTIONS of SUPER STORM SANDY**

**By Nancy and Michael Walsh**

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On Oct. 28th, 2012 we took the Governors “Evacuation Order” seriously and left South Bethany for the safety of our son’s home in the DC suburbs to ride out the storm. We returned to South Bethany on Oct. 31st when the water receded to find that the storm surge had inundated our garage with 3 feet of water, and there had been approximately 10 inches of water in our downstairs living space. [See photos below that show water line on house, and an aerial view of the waterlogged York Beach sections of South Bethany].

Panic set in quickly as we began to realize the extent of the damage and we had no real sense of how or where to start. Close neighbors made it clear we needed to hire a remediation team to get as much of the wet stuff out of the house as soon as possible. We needed to do mold treatment, and get the house dried out quickly to prevent development and spread of mold.

We were able to hire the Gale Force team who got to work immediately, and with crews of men working continuously over the next few days stripped out the carpets, subflooring, drywall up two feet, and removed all the wet insulation. It was an enormous job requiring the removal of all baseboards, door moldings etc to get all the wet stuff out. This was followed by days of drying with many, many, commercial fans and dehumidifiers running 24 hours a day.

Much of the debris was stacked at the curb for the better part of the week awaiting removal. This situation was made worse by the fact that there were subsequent high tides that caused flooding in the streets and floating much of the curb-deposited waste throughout the neighborhood.

I must say that the Town of South Bethany did a heroic job getting the enormous quantities of trash, debris, ruined furniture, mattresses etc. picked up and taken away. While it took a while, the job was huge, and most of the neighbors were delighted with the Towns performance under unusually difficult conditions.

After two weeks of cleanup we sought out building contractors to assist with the rebuilding. As we had recently done a major renovation two years ago we were able to use the same builder [Miken Builders] and were quickly able to develop a contract for the repairs.

During the first few weeks we were visited by the FEMA adjustor who came to the house to take pictures, but at this date [nearly 3 months later] we have not heard from FEMA and still await some resolution.

As of 5 February 2013 our rebuilding repairs are nearly complete and within the next week or so we will be able to move back into our downstairs space. This will require moving all furniture, books, files etc. that made it through the storm that we placed in a mini storage unit back into the house, and have the new replacement furniture delivered and set up.

Many of our family photo albums, tax files, and other files were inundated and we were unable to save. We lost a BMW, many appliances, all my tools in the garage, plus two Swiss sewing machines and a variety of other irreplaceable items

We expect that by the end of March [5 months post storm] we should be moved back in and back in business. The cost of the storm damage will total somewhere between $80,000 and $100,000.$80,000 - $100,000.







